



US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca Field Office
Edition 1, March 2005

The Winnemucca RMP Newsletter

The Objective

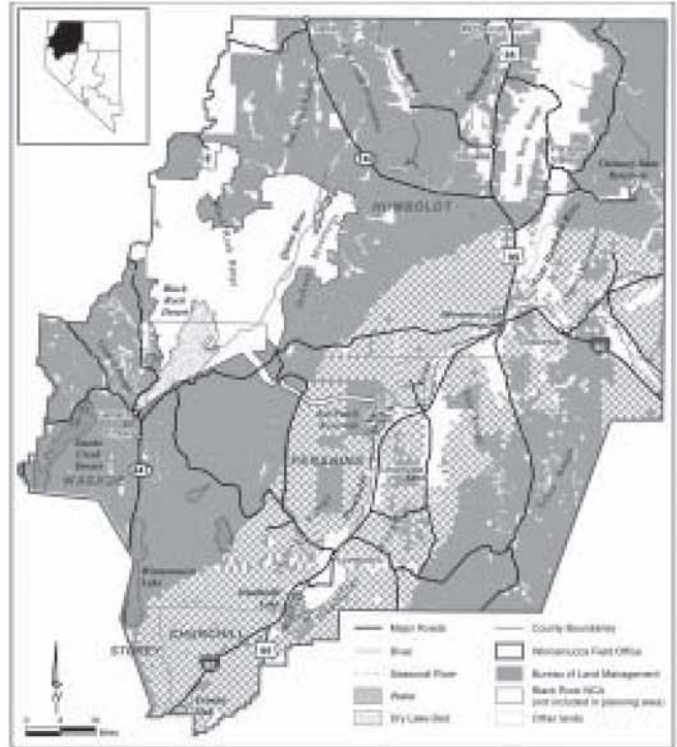
The Bureau of Land Management Winnemucca Field Office (WFO) is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to guide management of the 7,260,001 acres of public land that it administers. (Please see map, right.) This RMP will be prepared as a dynamic and flexible plan to allow evolving management to reflect the changing needs of the planning area over the next 20 years. In order to provide a comprehensive plan, the BLM requests input from you to help us identify issues and concerns within and adjacent to the planning area and to finalize the planning criteria that we will use to evaluate these issues. ♻

BLM Winnemucca Field Office Planning Area

The BLM, an agency within the US Department of the Interior, administers about 261 million surface acres of America's public lands, located primarily in 12 western states. The BLM is separated into state offices and further into field offices. The proposed RMP will be prepared by the WFO, located on the northwest portion of Nevada. The WFO-managed lands encompass all of Humboldt and Pershing Counties (3,561,864 and 2,703,371 acres) and parts of Washoe (762,059 acres), Lyon (2,870 acres) and Churchill (229,837 acres) Counties.

The WFO planning area boundary encompasses about 10,060,000 acres consisting of public lands, private lands, state lands, Indian reservations, and those federal lands not administered by the BLM. The WFO RMP will address only the BLM-managed lands within the planning area that are not covered by the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area RMP (July 2004). The remaining area, known as the "decision area," covers 7,260,001 acres (approximately 72 percent of the planning area); however, decisions of this planning process may affect or be affected by adjacent lands within and outside the WFO.

The WFO decision area is managed under the decisions of the Sonoma-Gerlach and the Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plans (MFP), each completed in 1982 and collectively amended in 1999 by the "Paradise-Denio and Sonoma Gerlach Management Framework Plan-Lands Amendment." The Winnemucca RMP will incorporate appropriate management



Mark your calendar!

Upcoming open houses

Winnemucca: Monday, May 2, 2005

Winnemucca Convention Center
East Hall
50 W Winnemucca Boulevard

Lovelock: Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Pershing County Community Center
820 6th Street

Gerlach: Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Gerlach Community Center
410 Cottonwood Street

Reno: Thursday, May 5, 2005

BLM Nevada State Office
Great Basin Meeting Rooms A & B
1340 Financial Boulevard

All meetings will be from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

decisions from the existing MFPs and amendment and will provide updated evaluations and decisions for the balance of the issues combined in one RMP. ♻

What is public scoping and how can you participate?

Public involvement is an integral part of preparing the WFO RMP. Scoping has been designed as a process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and other interested agencies and organizations on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the RMP and the methods and criteria by which they will be examined. The official scoping period began on March 25, 2005, with the publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register* and will continue until May 24, 2005. During the scoping period, the BLM will hold four open houses in Winnemucca, Reno, Lovelock, and Gerlach. Notices will be posted in the newspapers distributed within the planning area.

The public is invited and encouraged to participate in the planning process for the RMP during the public scoping period. Some ways you can participate include:

- Attending one or more of the open houses to learn about the project and planning process and to meet BLM representatives.
- Reviewing the progress of the RMP on-line at the official Winnemucca RMP Web site, www.nv.blm.gov/wformp. The Web site will be updated with information, documents, and announcements during the initial scoping process and throughout RMP preparation.
- Requesting to be added to or remain on the official WFO RMP mailing list in order to receive future mailings and information. Anyone wishing to be added to or deleted from the distribution list or those requesting further information may do so by:
 - (1) returning the comment form included as an insert to this newsletter,
 - (2) e-mailing your name and address to information@wformp.com, or
 - (3) contacting Jeff Johnson at (775) 623-1500.

Please provide your name, mailing address, and e-mail address, as well as your preferred method to receive information.

The BLM would like to hear your concerns and suggestions about the issues in the WFO planning area and about the proposed planning criteria to be used during the RMP process. Preliminary issues identified by the BLM are provided in **Anticipated Planning Issues** on this page, and planning criteria are provided in **Preliminary Planning Criteria** on the following page. In order for the BLM to formally consider your concerns during development of alternatives for the RMP, please submit written comments by May 24, 2005, by any of the methods shown below.

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www.nv.blm.gov/wformp

E-mail Address:
comments@wformp.com

Postal Address:
Winnemucca RMP
c/o Jeff Johnson
5100 E Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca NV 89445-2921

Fax Number:
(775) 623-1503
Attn: Winnemucca RMP

What is an RMP?

An RMP is a land use plan that describes broad multiple-use direction for BLM-managed public lands. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to develop such land use plans to provide for appropriate uses of public land. Decisions in land use plans guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. The RMP will accomplish the following:

- Establish goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives;
- Identify lands that are open and available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses; and
- Provide comprehensive management direction for and allocate use of all resources.

A pre-addressed comment form is provided inside this newsletter for your convenience. Simply fill it in, seal it as specified on the form, and drop it in the nearest outgoing mail.

All public comments, including names and mailing addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the WFO and may be published as part of the environmental impact statement. **If you wish to withhold your name or street address under the Freedom of Information Act, please state this prominently at the beginning of your written correspondence.** The BLM will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Following the formal scoping period, ending May 24, 2005, the BLM Interdisciplinary Team will review your written comments and prepare a scoping summary report identifying the key issues raised during scoping. The Interdisciplinary Team will then analyze your comments to identify relevant issues to address in the alternatives it formulates for the RMP. Also, based on your comments, the preliminary planning criteria may be revised. ▼

Anticipated planning issues

A planning issue is a matter of controversy over a resource management topic that is well defined and entails alternative actions or decisions. Based on the lands and resources that it manages, the BLM has identified categories of issues (see box at right). We expect most public issues and concerns to fall within one of these themes. However, we do not presume that this is an all-inclusive list and may revise it based on the comments we receive. The BLM requests your comments on these or other issues on or adjacent to BLM-administered lands within the WFO decision area. See the article on *What is Public Scoping and How Can You Participate?* on this page to see how you can submit your comments. ▼


Preliminary planning criteria

During its initial internal planning sessions, the WFO BLM staff developed the preliminary planning criteria listed below. Planning criteria provide a framework within which guidelines and standards can be developed for the planning process. They also help to define the scope of the process and estimate the extent of data collection and analysis required. BLM requests your input and may modify these criteria based on your comments. The following preliminary planning criteria will be considered during development of the RMP:

- Compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Decisions in the plan will be consistent with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies to the extent allowed by federal law, regulations, and policy.
- Impacts of the RMP will be analyzed in an environmental impact statement (EIS) developed in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 1610 and 40 CFR 1500 and the Departmental Manual 516 DM 1-8. The scope of analysis will be consistent with the level of analysis in approved plans and in accordance with BLM standards and program guidance.
- The RMP will recognize the state's responsibility to manage wildlife and water.
- The RMP will recognize valid existing rights.
- Lands covered in the RMP will be public surface and split estate lands managed by BLM. No decisions will be made in the RMP relating to the management of lands not administered by the BLM.

Issues Categories

- Access/transportation
- Energy
- Fire management
- Historical, cultural and paleontological resources/traditional values
- Land tenure
- Livestock grazing
- Minerals
- Recreation
- Social and economic concerns
- Soil, water, air, and visual resources
- Vegetation/noxious weeds
- Wild horses and burros
- Wilderness, wilderness study areas and other special designations
- Wildlife/sensitive species
- Planning/RMP process

- The RMP will be developed cooperatively and collaboratively with the State of Nevada, tribal governments, county and municipal governments, other federal agencies, the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, and other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
- RMP development will include government-to-government consultation with Native American Indian Tribes in conformance with the requirements of FLPMA and applicable laws, regulations and policies.
- The RMP will incorporate standards and guidelines developed in accordance with regulations in 43 CFR Subpart 4180 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior and will incorporate valid and relevant management decisions from previous BLM plans.
- Minerals management will be consistent with FLPMA and with the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research, and Development Act of 1980, the 3600 and 3800 regulations.
- Determinations for mineral development will be based on mineral, geothermal, and oil and gas potential within the planning area. Reasonable foreseeable development scenarios for fluid minerals will be developed in accordance with BLM Handbook H-1624-1.
- Soil/vegetation correlations, maps, and the included information from Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Surveys and range site descriptions will be used for evaluating ecological condition and the fundamentals of rangeland health in uplands.
- Existing ecological site inventories will be used to establish current vegetation conditions.
- Fire Management objectives will be consistent with the current WFO Fire Management Plan, the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Policy, the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Restoration Act, and other policies.
- The RMP/EIS will be consistent with Homeland Security policies.
- All proposed management actions will be based on current scientific information, research and technology, and on inventory and monitoring information.
- The RMP will recognize lifestyles and concerns of area residents and stakeholders. Analysis of economic matters will comply with established acceptable standards and environmental justice factors will be considered using analytical parameters recommended by the EPA Environmental Justice Guidelines (April 1998).
- Lands identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, will be identified for disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act.
- Lands identified for acquisition will be consistent with FLPMA Section 205, existing policy and regulation and, when applicable, with the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. 



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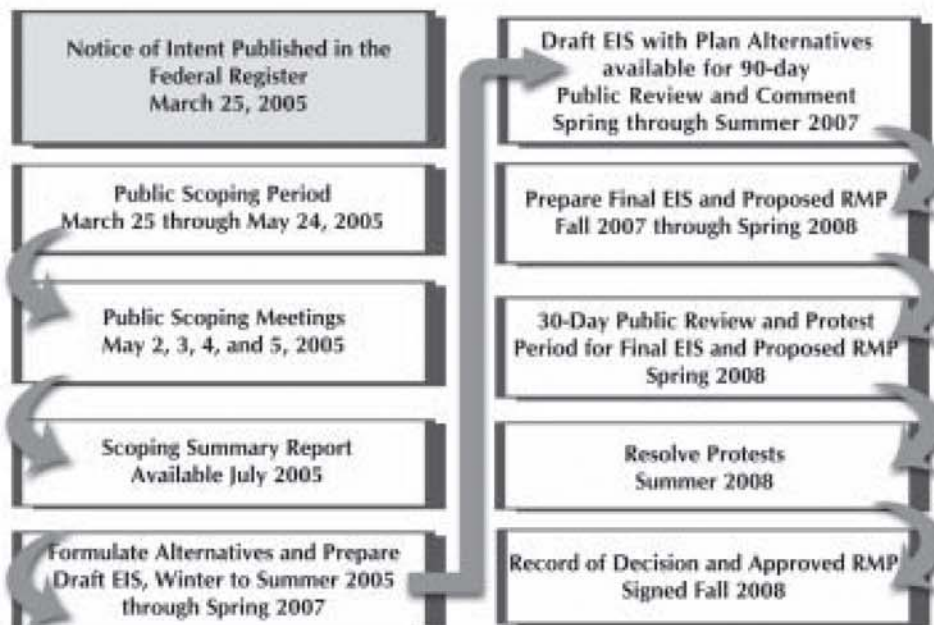
BLM Winnemucca
Field Office
RMP/EIS Newsletter

How to contact us

If you have questions about the RMP, please contact:

Mr. Jeff Johnson
Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921
Phone: (775) 623-1500
Fax: (775) 623-1503

PLANNING PROCESS TIMELINE



Shading indicates steps completed.

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Commonly Used Acronyms

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
MFP	Management Framework Plan
NOI	Notice of Intent
RMP	Resource Management Plan
WFO	Winnemucca Field Office

Please visit the Web site at www.nv.blm.gov/wformp